

# The Alexandria Gazette

THURSDAY EVENING, SEPT'R 4, 1862.

**LOCAL.**—It is said that fewer fish are now caught in the Potomac, with hook and line, than is usual at this season; nevertheless, the anglers are persevering.—The nights and mornings are now cool, and "feel like the fall of the year."—The Provost Guard are diligent in taking up soldiers intoxicated in the streets, or away from their regiments without leave; the stragglers now mostly loiter about the suburbs, and, in a few instances, lately, have been disorderly.—We have been requested, again to call attention to the necessity of procuring a supply of wood for fuel this winter, at reasonable rates.—The Provost Guard in Washington destroyed yesterday considerable contraband liquor.

**CONTRABANDS.**—Yesterday evening about 7 o'clock, upwards of one hundred negroes, men, women, and children, "contrabands," from the county around Fredericksburg, arrived here, and marched up King street, attracting the observation of all in the street.

**ROBBERY.**—Last Sunday night the fish house of Mr. R. C. Barton, on the Fish wharf, was broken open, and forty-three barrels of shad and eighteen barrels of herring taken, and destroyed. Some of the parties engaged in the robbery were arrested and punished by the Provost Marshal. Mr. B., who is an English subject, has laid his claim for damages before the British legation in Washington.

**SERENADE.**—Brig. Gen. Slough, Military Governor of this place, was serenaded by the band of the 33d Massachusetts regiment last night, at his headquarters, on St. Asaph street. The General in response addressed the crowd for a few minutes.

**PAROLED PRISONERS.**—Sixty eight paroled Federal prisoners from the neighborhood of Fairfax Court House arrived here last night.

**WOUNDED SOLDIERS.**—Large numbers of wounded Federal soldiers from the recent battles continue to arrive here, and the hospitals are full. The house next the late residence of Rev. Mr. Johnston has been taken for hospital purposes by the military authorities.

**ACCIDENT.**—Yesterday afternoon, as a little boy was running up Royal street, his foot caught in the hoop skirt of a lady who was passing, and he was thrown to the ground, and considerably stunned by the fall.

Gen. Butler, in an official order, recites the enrolling of the Native Guard (colored) in New Orleans, in April 1861, and now directs that the said Guard then authorized by the Confederates, "and all other free colored citizens recognized by the late Governor and authorities of the State of Louisiana as a portion of the militia of the State, who shall enlist in the service of the U. S. shall be duly organized and accepted, paid, equipped, armed and rationed as are other volunteer troops of the United States, subject to the approval of the President of the United States."

The Washington Star says:—"That the Federal loss last week in the battles, did not exceed 15,000, killed, wounded and missing, and that stragglers are coming in."

The steamer Baltic, with a large number of troops on board, ran ashore on Winter Quarter Shoals on Monday night, and it was feared would be a wreck. The troops were all rescued by vessels coming to her assistance. Subsequently she got off and arrived safe at New York yesterday.

The following is the correct form in which the order with reference to Gen. McClellan has been issued:

WAR DEPARTMENT.  
Adjutant General's Office.  
Washington, Sept. 2, 1862.

General Order No. 122.—Major General McClellan will have command of the fortifications of Washington, and all the troops for the defense of the capital.

It is said in the newspapers that Winchester has been evacuated by the Federal troops, the Confederates having again appeared in force in the Valley.

## The Situation.

The movement of retreat upon Washington may now be said to be consummated, with its consequences, the evacuation of Fredericksburg and Winchester. It was obvious that it was determined upon when the Federal army at Centreville, reinforced on Sunday, did not renew the combat suspended by mutual exhaustion on Saturday. Centreville could only be held by attacking the enemy. As a defensive position it was untenable, as the enemy could turn it by a movement in the direction of the Chain Bridge.

We are satisfied that Gen. Pope wished to fight, but was overruled from headquarters here.—*Washington Republican.*

## FROM JAMES RIVER.

[Correspondence of the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.]

JAMES RIVER, August 29.—At about two o'clock P. M. the vessels stationed near Jamestown received orders from the Commodore to proceed immediately down the river, and take up all the bomb schooners in tow. In five minutes every vessel was under way, and proceeding towards Fortress Monroe. Shortly afterwards the Wachusett, flag-ship, Dacotah, Galena, Genessee, and other vessels, together with several small schooners and tug-boats, having bomb schooners in tow, came up with our ship, and with the exception of the Genessee, passed by us. All on board are discussing the probable cause of this movement. Of course, nobody knows, and probably will not know until the several vessels arrive at their destination, what we are required to do. That an order has come from Washington directing this movement I have strong reasons to believe.

## Winchester—Leesburg.

[Correspondence of the Baltimore American.]

HARPER'S FERRY, September 3.—I learn that Winchester was evacuated by the Federal forces last night. All the stores, locomotives and cars were brought off, and the troops were unmolested in their retreat. Martinsburg, it is understood, is now held by a strong force.—We have reports that the Confederates are in the vicinity of Leesburg in strong force. There is no doubt that their cavalry are now there, but the reports as to their force are mere conjecture.

About sixty of the Washington party of Government clerks, &c., were captured it is said on Monday morning. They swung off towards General Banks's corps, where it is supposed they were taken by a division of the enemy who were engaged in harassing Banks on his retreat from Warrenton.

**THE CAMPAIGN.**—Whoever cut up McClellan's great army, into the three Divisions of McClellan, Banks and McDowell, is the responsible author of every public calamity on the Potomac, the Pamunkey, the James and the Shenandoah Rivers. The reader will observe that General Burnside has withdrawn his army altogether from Fredericksburg (Va.) retired to Aquia Creek, now under the protection of our gun boats, and has concentrated all his disposable force, under Gen. Pope, for the protection of Washington. This abandonment was doubtless as wise as it was necessary, under existing circumstances.—Our armies have all along, in the confidence of our people, and of our administration, been scattered from "Dan to Beersheba," without apparent military purpose, or strategy—unless a spread over a great extent of soil, be considered "war." But now, we rejoice to see, the War Department is doing that for Pope, it refused to McClellan, viz, the concentration of all available forces under his (Pope's) command.—*N. Y. Express.*

A camp of instruction for soldiers has been established at the Annapolis Junction. Numbers of tents have been put up for the accommodation of those under instruction. A New York regiment arrived on Monday last, and more were expected.

It is said of company K, 2d Wisconsin regiment, that out of forty-seven men who went into action on Saturday, only seven reported for duty the next morning, the rest having been either killed, wounded or taken prisoners.

The Washington Star of last evening contradicts a rumor that Secretary Stanton had resigned and been succeeded by Major Gen. Halleck, as Secretary pro tem.

Washington is comparatively quiet, the excitement of the last two days having subsided. Such disposition has been made of the troops within the last twenty-four hours as to restore confidence in the citizens.

Gen. McClellan, has re-established his headquarters in the building on Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, opposite the State Department, occupied by him for the same purpose before the departure of the Army of the Potomac from this vicinity.

Among the gunboats on the river are the following, in addition to the flag-ship Wachusett: Jacob Belle, Yankee, Port Royal, Sonoma, Arostook, Tioga and Teaser. The Despatch, Satellite and others are in the river, and may shortly be expected up.

The members of the old St. Louis Merchants' Exchange were notified to appear before the provost marshal, to answer to the charge of disloyal demonstrations at the meeting last Friday. If found guilty the Exchange will be dissolved and the property confiscated.

A party at a gentleman's house in Baltimore county, were arrested yesterday on suspicion of holding a treasonable meeting. They were carried before Gen. Wool, who, on hearing the case, immediately ordered their discharge.

Gen. Kearney, hearing that one wing of his division was giving way, so as to expose his force to being flanked, insisted on going himself to ascertain the true condition of things although admonished of the danger incurred in doing so. He never returned. He was shot and his body fell into the hands of the Confederates who, under the orders of Gen. Lee, sent it back with a flag of truce.

Great complaint is made in Washington, of the number of officers loitering about the city and its vicinity, not on any apparent duty.